



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Report – May 12, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

As we finally enter into spring and warmer weather (and even a nice calming, cleansing rain as I write this), we find ourselves still managing around our ever present pandemic guidelines and coming up with new, innovative ways to keep land management in the Preserve at the forefront of our activities. Adam Gundlach was able to complete several good burns this spring and Bryn Scriver continues to develop outreach and volunteer methods that keep us moving forward, all under the great leadership of Laura Wyatt. While we haven't yet received our operating budget outline yet for FY2022, I'm optimistic that we'll not have to reduce our university funding in any significant way. Another item to note is that we've been partnering more and more with our colleagues in campus in Housing, Outdoor UW and Recreation & Wellbeing as we look to the future of the Willow Creek Corridor and a master plan for that area. We've received some good feedback from a number of stakeholders, including the Committee at our last meeting. We'll plan to share the final draft early next fall as we gather again, hopefully in-person, on campus!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last report:

- 2021-20 – Wellness Week - Recreation & Wellbeing, Erik Jaeke
- LT2021-19 – Wild & Domestic Canid Activity
- 2021-18 – Hoofers Ambassadors
- 2021-17 – Bacteriology - Pollen Actinobacteria-May
- 2021-16 – SEG-Efficacy of Porous Pavement

Bryn and I met with Erik Jaeke, the Assistant Director at Recreation & Wellbeing regarding use of the Preserve for wellness activities. Working with Outdoor UW, three programs were offer for students during finals week. . .yoga, meditation, and forest bathing.

Celebrate. . .we passed our **Day of the Badger** fund raising goal with \$5,160 and received a \$4,000 challenge match from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve! Total raised was \$9,160 from 50 donors! Thanks to the Friends for their support, all of you for your support, and to Bryn Scriver for coordinating the outreach!!

We have hired two students who are working 100 hours each to assist in our annual battle with garlic mustard removal. We are also continuing to work through the process of hiring two seasonal workers. As in the past, we are struggling to find folks who are interested in working for a limited time with no benefits. The Preserve would be better served with the addition of one full-time position but that has not been supported in the past by FP&M or campus leadership.

Fire circles continue to remain closed.

Progress on the Preserve's Strategic Plan goals is moving forward with continuing development of the draft Communications Plan and work with building partnerships with affiliate organizations.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project is under construction with concrete footings and foundations currently being poured.

To facilitate Rec-Well's on-going operations during this construction project, a temporary shed (40'x 70') has been installed at the handball wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (in2023).

- The Vet Med expansion design is nearly complete and will start construction likely in mid-June 2021.
- Temporary Linden Drive Bridge – this is an enabling project for the Vet Med project during construction to maintain access to the small and large animal hospitals. Construction will begin this spring and conclude July 1, just in time for the beginning of the Vet Med project.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, the study presented last month, is intended to be completed by the end of summer 2021. A presentation will be made to the Committee when the study is in its final draft form.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- We continue to prepare the paperwork for hiring a consulting firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update process. We should be advertising for a consultant soon and then we'll move into an interview and selection process. With this delay in hiring a consultant team, this will push our start back to the start of the fall semester, when we can begin in earnest after faculty and students are back on campus.
- The historic gate renovation project at the entrance to Picnic Point project is being designed by a consultant and will soon be moving into bidding for construction.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve staff and volunteer stewards continued invasive brush removal in woodland fringe around east savanna field, in the north end of Bill's Woods, and portions of Frautschi Point.
- Completed prescribed burns and follow-up monitoring in portions of Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, Eagle Heights Woods, and Raymer's Cove prairie and Biocore prairie. Assisted UW Arboretum crew with burns. Assisted with live fire exercises at UW Arboretum for LA375 prescribed fire course.
- Garlic mustard removal across multiple locations by volunteer stewards and student workers, coordinated by Bryn.
- Completed hiring process and preparing seasonal staff onboarding for the 2021 field season.
- Planning details of land management needs and timing of treatments for 2021 field season.
- Routine site maintenance, reporting use issues and mitigating/repairing as needed.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Ongoing updates to website, social media, and kiosks—Day of the Badger, Friends Annual Meeting, UW Science Expeditions, Friends self-guided walks, phenology calendar and spring wildflowers
- Reviewing Friends self-guided tours
- Submitted article to University Apartments newsletter (topic: tree bark)
- Check-ins with Student Engagement Grant awardees regarding project outreach and coordination with Preserve outreach
- Conversations with Rec-Well for wellbeing activities in the Preserve

Volunteer activities:

- The Friends garlic mustard pull event was held on May 2
 - first group event in 14 months
 - 12 volunteers removed 30 trash bags of garlic mustard at Frautschi Point following all COVID guidelines

- supervised by volunteer Roma Lenehan and Bryn Scriver
- The Friends spring wildflower planting is scheduled for May 22
- Ongoing remote supervision of Volunteer Stewards
 - 1 volunteer cutting and treating buckthorn and honeysuckle resprouts in Frauschi Point Woods
 - 7 hours in the last month
 - 3 active trail monitors, collecting trash, checking on conditions of signs, reporting on trail hazards
 - 10 hours in the last month
 - 3 volunteers pulling garlic mustard on west end of Preserve and Bill's Woods
 - No hours to report yet
- Initiation and supervision of remote volunteer garlic mustard removal program, similar to last spring.